

Rehearsal Notes

The tempo marking (♩ = ca. 125) and directive (*Merrily*) tip us off as to what the singer's attitude should be before they even hear the first phrase or sing the first note. The eight-measure introduction demonstrates the mood. The piece is going to be mostly light and pleasant. This setting of the familiar carol offers the choir an opportunity to sing contrasting styles. The refrain (sung four times in unison) should have a little bounce separated by more flowing, legato stanzas.

The words "merrily" (m. 16) and "coming" (m. 32) present teaching moments about stressed and unstressed syllables. Since the phrases will break after m. 16 and m. 32, the singer's natural tendency may be to put too much emphasis (accent/volume) on the last syllables, somehow in anticipation of the lift. Have your singers think of volume on a scale of 1 to 5, 1 being the softest and 5 the loudest. As an exercise, have them practice speaking with a range of volume on a neutral vowel until the contrast between 1 and 5 is significant. Then have the singers speak the syllables of the word "coming" in that "5-1" pattern. Next, have the choir speak the text from m. 29 to m. 32, paying close attention to "coming." Lastly, have them sing the same line, ending the phrase with a 5-1 "coming." There are several other phrases that end with 5-1 words. A three-syllable word like "merrily" (m. 16) might be considered a 5-3-1 word.

He Is Born

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For SATB Voices, Accompanied
with Optional Congregation*

Traditional French Carol

IL EST NÉ

French Carol

Arranged by C. L. Bass

Merrily (♩ = ca. 125)

Piano introduction in 2/4 time, marked *mp*. The melody is in the right hand, starting with a quarter note G4, followed by a half note A4-B4, and then a quarter note G4. The left hand provides a simple harmonic accompaniment with chords.

SA unis. 9 (+ Opt. Congregation) *mp*
He is born, the di-vine Christ Child;
TB unis. *mp*

Piano accompaniment for the first vocal line, starting at measure 9. The right hand has a melodic line with eighth and quarter notes, while the left hand has a steady bass line.

13 17
play the o-boe and bag-pipes mer-ri-ly! He is

Piano accompaniment for the second vocal line, starting at measure 17. The right hand features a melodic line with a trill on the final note, and the left hand continues the harmonic support.

*Part for Congregation is found on page 11.

Also available: Score and parts for Flute, Oboe (Flute 2), B \flat Clarinets 1 & 2, Percussion 1 & 2, Violins 1 & 2, Viola, Cello, String Bass, and Piano - 820047

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born, the di - vine Christ Child; sing we all of the

25 *legato*

Sav - ior mild. Through long a - ges of the past,

25

legato

33

proph - ets have fore - told His com - ing; through long a - ges

33

35

of the past, — now the time has — come at last! —

42

unis.

He is born, the di - vine Christ Child; play the — o - boe and

42

He is born, the di - vine Christ Child; play the — o - boe and

48

50

bag - pipes mer - ri - ly! He is born, the di - vine Christ

50

bag - pipes mer - ri - ly! He is born, the di - vine Christ

Child; sing we — all of the Sav - ior mild.

58 (- Opt. Congregation)

p legato

O how love - ly, — O how pure is this per - fect —

58

(Play cue notes only if necessary)

p *8va* *p* *legato*

64

66

Child of heav - en;

p legato

O how love - ly, — O how

66

69

pure, gra - cious gift to hu - man - kind!

75 (+ Opt. Congregation)

unis. mf

He is born, the di - vine Christ Child; play the

75

80

83

o - boe and bag - pipes mer - ri - ly! He is born, the di -

83

85

vine Christ Child; sing we all of the Sav - ior

90

92

mild.

mild.

96

98

Je - sus, Lord of all the world, -

Je - sus, Lord of all the world, -

102 106

com - ing as a Child a - mong us; Je - sus,

106

Lord of all the world, grant to us Thy

107

112 115 *unis. ff*

heaven - ly peace. He is born, the di - vine Christ

unis. ff

115 *ff*

Child; play the o - boe and bag - pipes mer - ri - ly!

This system contains measures 118 to 122. It features a vocal line in treble clef and a piano accompaniment in bass clef. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: "Child; play the o - boe and bag - pipes mer - ri - ly!".

123

He is born, the di - vine Christ Child, sing we

This system contains measures 123 to 127. It features a vocal line in treble clef and a piano accompaniment in bass clef. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: "He is born, the di - vine Christ Child, sing we".

123

This system contains measures 128 to 132. It features a vocal line in treble clef and a piano accompaniment in bass clef. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: "all of the Sav - ior mild.".

128

all of the Sav - ior mild.

molto rit.

This system contains measures 133 to 137. It features a vocal line in treble clef and a piano accompaniment in bass clef. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: "all of the Sav - ior mild.". The tempo marking *molto rit.* appears above the vocal line in measure 134 and below the piano line in measure 136.

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He Is Born

For SATB Voices, Accompanied
with Optional Congregation

Traditional French Carol

IL EST NÉ

French Carol

Arranged by C. L. Bass

Congregation

(All) He is born, the di - vine Christ Child; play the

6 o - boe and bag - pipes mer - ri - ly! He is born, the di -

11 vine Christ Child; sing we all of the Sav - ior mild. *Fine*

17 1. Through long a - ges of the past, proph - ets have fore -
3. Je - sus, Lord of all the world, com - ing as a

23 told His com - ing; through long a - ges of the
Child a - mong us; Je - sus, Lord of all the

28 past, now the time has come at last!
world, grant to us Thy heaven - ly peace. *D.C.*

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